## **Kerygmatic Christocentric Narratives for OCIA Catechumenate**

## *A spiral curriculum based on “Echoing the Mystery,” taught within the context of questions or Christocentric narratives.*

Instructional Resource: *Echoing the Mystery* by Barbara Morgan and Sr. Athanasius Munroe, O.P.

Story lines = *Echoing the Mystery* Divine Perspective

Knowledge Targets = *Echoing the Mystery* “Essentials”

**Who is God? Who am I? – Dignity of the Human Person**

**Session 1 – Who is God**

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| Echoing the Mystery Topics |
| 2. Man’s Capacity for God  4. The Existence of God  11. God the Father  5. The Blessed Trinity (6) |
| The Story |
| God made us “in His image” with the unique capacity to be “like Him,” to share in His divine nature and to be drawn into intimacy with love. In His infinite goodness, God left in His creation traces and evidences of His existence, power, and wisdom, that men might seek Him, and, reaching out to Him, might find Him. God reveals Himself as Father, “first origin of everything that is made and transcendent authority. |
| Knowledge Targets |
| 1. God is love 2. Man alone, in all of visible creation, is made for relationship with God. 3. Man searches for God throughout his life. 4. The heart is the center of man’s spiritual being, the place that he enters into relationship with God. 5. God calls men and women to union with Himself. 6. The Desire for God is written on every human heart. 7. God makes His existence known. 8. God makes Himself known as absolute perfection. 9. Believing in and loving God means living in relationship with Him. 10. We must have a relationship with the Father. 11. The work attributed to the Father in relation to the world is creation. 12. Having one Father means we must be united as one family. 13. The Father is almighty. 14. God’s almighty fatherhood calls us to obedience. 15. Jesus reveals the Father to His followers. 16. The Church’s language of faith aids our understanding of this dogma: The Trinity is the Mystery of the one God in three Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. |
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**Session 2 – Who am I?**

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| Echoing the Mystery Topics |
| 12. Creation  5. The Blessed Trinity (5)  10. Faith  3. Life Everlasting  41. The Dignity of the Human Person |
| The Story |
| From the fullness of His own beatitude, God called forth creatures for the sake of their happiness, to share in His own divine life. God makes known His loving goodness and His plan to us, and, by grace, empowers man to respond freely with faith to His Revelation. God calls each man to perfect and everlasting communion with Himself. He gives the time of earthly life to man as an opportunity to either cooperate with Him in achieving this goal or to reject His offer of salvation. From the beginning, God desired a family. He destined us to be His adopted sons to the praise of His glorious grace. |
| Knowledge Targets |
| 1. God created all things. 2. God calls His creation to share His own life. 3. In the whole visible creation, man alone was created for His own sake. 4. God sustains us and guides all of creation toward perfection by divine providence. 5. Each Person of the Trinity works in a particular way in creation and salvation history. 6. Faith is both that which has been revealed and the act of believing it. 7. Faith is a gift of God. 8. In the act of faith, by grace, the will moves the intellect to assent to divine truth. 9. Faith is more certain than all human knowledge. 10. Faith permeates all of our life and continues to grow with us throughout life. 11. Faith is necessary for salvation. 12. God wills all to be saved. 13. Heaven is an everlasting communion of life and love with God and the blessed. 14. In death, God calls man to Himself. 15. In the evening of life, we are judged on our love. This is the particular judgement. 16. God, in His merciful love, gives us purgatory to purify us after death if we lack the perfection necessary to enter heaven. 17. Those who choose not to love God in this life enter hell at death. 18. In all of visible creation, only man is created for friendship with God. 19. God creates man with the dignity of a person, giving him an intellect and will to seek God. 20. As a unit of body and soul, our whole nature is made for communion with God. Only this unity comprises the human person. 21. The Incarnation fully reveals the dignity of the Human person and raises it to a new level. 22. We must treat all people with respect, because God made them for friendship with Himself. |
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**The Story of Salvation – My need for a Savior and Christ’s Paschal Mystery**

**Session 3 – The Story of Salvation**

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| Echoing the Mystery Topics |
| 1. Original Sin   19. The Paschal Mystery |
| The Story |
| Before the foundation of the world, God “destined us in love to be His sons” and gave us the freedom to embrace this plan. Nevertheless, even when we reject it and become “dead in our transgressions,” He never abandons us. God, in His plan of loving goodness, reconciled us to Himself through the blood of His Son, raised us up with Him in His Resurrection, and, through His Ascension, seats us with Him in the heavenly places. |
| Knowledge Targets |
| 1. God created the first man and woman in a state of original holiness and justice and entrusted this grace to them for all of their descendants. 2. Throughout the deceit of the devil, Adam and Eve let their trust in their creator die in their hearts and disobeyed his command. 3. Adam and Eve lost grace for themselves and their descendants and hand on human nature in a weakened state. 4. The grace we receive in Christ far surpasses the evil caused by the fall. 5. Baptism cleanses us of original sin and restores us to al life of friendship with God. 6. The whole point of the incarnation was the paschal mystery, by which God accomplishes our salvation. 7. By dying, Christ destroyed our death. Death was never part of God’s plan for us, but he makes it the means of our salvation. 8. Jesus rose from the dead, bringing us to share in the life of the resurrection. 9. By ascending into heaven, Jesus brings His human nature to share fully in His divine glory. 10. Jesus calls each of us to be saved by sharing in His Paschal Mystery. 11. The Eucharist makes the Paschal Mystery present throughout all of time and joins us to it. |
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**Session 4 – Who is Jesus Christ?**

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| Echoing the Mystery Topics |
| 16. God the Son: Jesus Christ  6. Glorification  21. The Holy Spirit |
| The Story |
| God always intended unity with us, so that we could participate in His Trinitarian Life. Jesus is the Way and the Truth by whom we come to that Life. The Father’s plan for us will be fulfilled when He fully transforms us to be fully divinized and life the risen Christ, living in Him and sharing His glory. The Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, the Holy Spirit, is the Lord of life and the Giver of life. All life, natural and supernatural, belongs to Him. |
| Knowledge Targets |
| 1. Jesus asks us, “who do you say that I am?” And we each answer with Peter, “You are Christ, the Son of the Living God.” 2. The Eternal Son of God became man in the Incarnation. 3. Jesus accomplishes our salvation through the events of the Paschal Mystery. 4. Jesus will complete the glorification of His body, the Church, through coming again. 5. Moved by the grace of the Holy Spirit and drawn by the Father, we confess Jesus as Lord. 6. We are made for His glory, for the sake of our happiness. 7. The gift of sanctifying grace in the Sacraments begins our Divinization. 8. In the Beatific vision, God takes man up into communion with Him in His Trinitarian heavenly glory. 9. The body will share in our divinization when Christ comes in glory. 10. We prepare for glorification in this life by entering into the great exchange in the blessed trinity. 11. The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity. 12. We know the Holy Spirit by His “works” in the Church. He is our guarantor of hope. 13. Throughout salvation history, the Holy Spirit is revealed as the Lord and the Giver of Life. 14. The Holy Spirit completes the Father’s plan by restoring us to the Divine Image. |
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**Session 5 – Jesus and Mary – “Behold I make all things new.”**

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| Echoing the Mystery Topics |
| 1. Angels 2. The Incarnation   17. Mary of Nazareth  44. Sanctification and Universal Call to Holiness |
| The Story |
| To show forth His glory, God created the angels as personal beings, in His own image, to always behold His face and to serve as His messengers. God the Father destined us in love to be His sons and daughters through Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. From all eternity God wanted to enlist the free cooperation of a creature to bring about the Incarnation of His Son. God who alone is holy, chose us to be holy and blameless before Him through incorporating us into the life of His Son and sending the Holy Spirit into our hearts. |
| Knowledge Targets |
| 1. Angels are spiritual beings with intellect and will. 2. The Devil and demons are fallen angels. 3. Christ involves the angels in His saving work. 4. The Second Person of the Trinity, the Word of God, assumed a human nature. 5. Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man. 6. The mission of Christ is summed up in the reasons for the Incarnation. 7. Everything Jesus said and did was for the purpose of accomplishing the reasons for the incarnation. 8. To prepare her for saying “yes” to His invitation, God made Mary full of grace. This is the Immaculate Conception. 9. Mary remained a virgin before, during, and after the birth of her Son. 10. At the end of her earthly life, the Immaculate Virgin Mary was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory. 11. Jesus Christ destroyed the works of the Devil and gives us the means of conquering in Him. 12. By becoming man, God made it possible for us to share His life. 13. God has made each of His sons and daughters to be Holy, with the intention that each should become a Saint. 14. The Christian life is one of continual conversion to Christ and growth in holiness through the Sacraments and the practice of asceticism. 15. Mary is the Mother of God. 16. Mary is the Mother of all the faithful. 17. The Church gives special honor to Mary, the Mother of God. 18. The fount of holiness is the Church, through her, God makes us holy. 19. Love is the soul of holiness, there is no true holiness without charity. 20. Prayer sustains the life of holiness. It is its heart, since holiness, ultimately, is communion with God. |
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**The Story and The Church**

**Session 6 – The Story of Divine Revelation**

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| Echoing the Mystery Topics |
| 7. Divine Revelation  INSERT: O.T. PATRIARCHS  INSERT: JESUS AND APOSTLES  INSERT HIERARCHY OF THE CHURCH  9. Sacred Tradition (4)  24. The Church: Guardian and Dispenser of all Mysteries |
| The Story |
| God invites us into intimacy with Himself far exceeding our natural capacity. By revelation, He raises us from a creature’s knowledge of Him to the intimate, personal knowledge of the Father belonging to a divine son or daughter. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God. The life of the Church is a mystery of the love of the Trinity who dwells in her. This love is guided, guarded and up-built by the hierarchy of the Church and her Magisterium, so that we unfailing meet Christ in her. |
| Knowledge Targets |
| 1. By using reason, we can come to know that a God exists. 2. God invites us to share in His own divine life. 3. God reveals Himself – His Nature, His Presence, and His work. These are the Mysteries of our faith. 4. By faith, we respond to God’s revelation of His mysteries. 5. The Church guards and teaches the mystery of Jesus Christ. 6. Through the Incarnation, Jesus Christ fully reveals God and His love. 7. The Holy Spirit communicates all of Divine Revelation through Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. 8. TO PREPARE MEN TO RECEIVE JESUS CHRIST, THE FULLNESS OF DIVINE REVELATION, HE REVEALED HIMSELF TO INDIVIDUALS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT – NOAH, ABRAHAM, ISAAC, JACOB, MOSES, JOSHUA, DAVID… 9. JESUS CHOSE TWELVE INDIVIDUALS TO PASS ON HIS GOSPEL TO ALL NATIONS. 10. Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture form the deposit of faith, entrusted to the Church. (E.M. 9.4) 11. The Church’s Magisterium faithfully guards the mysteries of Christ and hands them on to us so that we can have life to the full. 12. The hierarchical structure of the Church serves the growth in holiness of the entire Church. The Apostles and their successors bring us into communion with Christ and to share in His mystery. The Church is the Sacrament of Christ – as sign and instrument that brings men into communion with God. |
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**Session 7 – Abundant Life and the Church**

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| Echoing the Mystery Topics |
| 21. The Holy Spirit  22. The Church: Mystery and Mystical Body  25. The Communion of Saints |
| The Story |
| The Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, the Holy Spirit, is the Lord of life and the Giver of life. All life, natural and supernatural, belongs to Him. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God. The life of the Church is a mystery of the love of the Trinity who dwells in her. This love is guided, guarded and up-built by the hierarchy of the Church and her Magisterium, so that we unfailing meet Christ in her. God created the world for the sake of the communion with His divine life that He brings about through the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ. From the beginning, God intended a family to share His life. His plan to unite all things in Christ is accomplished in His Church, through which He brings about a holy people, united with the unity of the Trinity. |
| Knowledge Targets |
| 1. The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity. 2. We know the Holy Spirit by His “works” in the Church. He is our guarantor of hope. 3. Throughout salvation history, the Holy Spirit is revealed as the Lord and the Giver of Life. 4. The Holy Spirit completes the Father’s plan by restoring us to the Divine Image. 5. The Church’s holiness is measured according to the “Great Mystery” in which the bride responds with the gift of love to the bridegroom. 6. Mary goes before us in the holiness that is the Church’s Mystery as the Bride without spot or wrinkle. 7. The Church is a mystery, born of the pierced heart of Christ. 8. The Holy Spirit unites the Church’s members, as a soul unites the parts of a body. 9. The Church is Christ’s mystical body. By her He continues His Incarnational presence and work in the world. 10. Christ has chosen to make the Church necessary to carrying out His work in the world. 11. The consecrated life manifests the mystery of the Church’s communion. 12. The Holy Spirit sanctifies the hearts in which He dwells and unites them one to another, creating a communion among God’s holy ones – the saints. 13. In the Church, the saints share God’s holy gifts: one faith, the sacraments, charism, and holy love for one another, charity. 14. The Communion of Saints includes those baptized on earth, the souls in purgatory, and the faithful who have entered into heavenly glory. We all live one life in charity together. |
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**How do I worship God? – Liturgy and the Church**

**Session 8 – Worship in Spirit and in Truth**

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| Echoing the Mystery Topics |
| 5. The Blessed Trinity (1-2)  42. Grace  56. The First Three Commandments  28. Liturgy |
| The Story |
| God is a Trinitarian communion of Persons whose life is love. He created us to share in this communion of love. From all eternity, God planned to raise men to share in His divine life. He makes us share in this life on earth and in eternity through grace. The Father made us for relationship with Himself. In the first three Commandments, He makes known to us the way in which He desires to be loved so that we can respond to Him. In the holy liturgy, the Father makes possible our present participation in the work of the Trinity. Our greatest work in this life is to offer acceptable worship through Christ and become “other Christs” in the world. |
| Knowledge Targets |
| 1. God is Himself an eternal exchange of love. 2. The aim of God’s entire plan for us is our entry into His Trinitarian life; this defines the purpose for our lives. 3. Grace is God’s free gift to us, to which we can only respond. 4. God infuses His own life into us, making us capable of participating in His own intimate, Trinitarian life. 5. This continuous act of God by which He gives us life is divine adoption; it resembles the Father’s eternal begetting of the son. 6. By sharing our humanity, Christ opens the way for us to share His divinity. 7. Grace is powerful: it is God’s own nature at work in us. 8. To abide and increase in grace, we must constantly draw our life from Christ, the source of all grace. 9. The call to love God directs and organizes every aspect of our life. In the light of our call to live with Him, everything else falls into place. 10. God entrusts His name to us so that we can call upon Him in loving prayer. 11. Keeping holy the Sabbath reminds us each week that God made us for relationship with Him. It is a foretaste of heaven. 12. The liturgy of the new covenant has its origin in the liturgy of the old covenant. 13. By liturgy, God continue His wonderful works, begun in the OT and brought to fullness in the new. By it, He sanctifies the whole of our life. 14. The Paschal Mystery is the center of the liturgy and of the Gospel. 15. The Liturgy returns the Church to her source and manifests her as the visible sign of communion between God and man. 16. Through tradition, the Church in her doctrine, life, and worship hands on all that she herself is and all that she believes. 17. The liturgy is essentially communal. Because it stems from the communion of the Trinity and creates the communion among men in the Church. 18. The Paschal Mystery transfigures the time of each day through the liturgy of the hours, which makes the entire day and night holy by the praise of God. |
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**Session 9 – The Mass**

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| Echoing the Mystery Topics |
| 5. The Blessed Trinity (3)  42. Grace  33. The Holy Mass |
| The Story |
| God is Trinitarian communion of Persons whose life is love. He created us to share in this communion of love. From all eternity, God planned to raise men to share in His divine life. He makes us share in this life on earth and in eternity through grace. Because He always intended to divinize us, Jesus entrusted the Mass to the Church, by which He gives us the fullest participation in the divine life that we can have on earth. |
| Knowledge Targets |
| 1. The Trinity comes to us as self-emptying love in Christ. 2. God reveals this innermost secret of His life to us as He brings us to share in this life. 3. Grace is God’s free gift to us, to which we can only respond. 4. God infuses His own life into us, making us capable of participating in His own intimae, Trinitarian life. 5. This continuous act of God by which He gives us life is divine adoption; it resembles the Father’s eternal begetting of the son. 6. By sharing our humanity, Christ opens the way for us to share His divinity. 7. Grace is powerful: it is God’s own nature at work in us. 8. To abide and increase in grace, we must constantly draw our life from Christ, the source of all grace. 9. The Mass is a sacrifice. 10. The Mass is a sacrifice of thanksgiving for all God’s works in creation, redemption, and sanctification. 11. As a memorial, the Mass unites us to the Paschal Mystery and carries out the whole work of redemption. 12. The goal of the Mass is achieved in the sacred banquet of our Lord’s Body and Blood. 13. Through the Mass, the Risen Christ remains with us until He comes in glory. 14. Since the time of the Apostles, the same Mass has been celebrated in the entire Church throughout the world. |
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**How do I live as an adopted child of God? – The Christian Moral Life**

**Session 10 – Summary of the Christian Moral Life**

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| Echoing the Mystery Topics |
| 55. Law  54. Justification  43. Love  57. The 4th-7th Commandments |
| The Story |
| God made known to us the mystery of His will, His plan for the final glorification of His creation in Christ. The law directs us on the way to this ultimate fulfillment, when God will be all in all. When we sinned and fell under the domain of death, God was not dismayed. In His divine mercy, He calls us back to Himself, and, when we respond, He destroys the power of sin, gives us His own righteousness, and sets us on the way of sanctification. God is love, and He destined us in love to be His sons. He transforms us into the image of His Son by increasing His love in our hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Father desires all to become members of His family. Through the Commandments relating to the love of neighbor, He makes known to us His will for our interactions with other. Through observing them, we grow in His image and likeness. |
| Knowledge Targets |
| 1. Our every action has significance. It is either good, leading us toward God, or evil, leading away from Him. 2. By writing His law on our hearts, God has made it possible for us to discern good and evil. This is the natural law. 3. God first revealed His law to His people Israel, so that the ways that lead to life can be known easily, by all, and without error. 4. Jesus Christ perfectly fulfilled the law and brings us the new law of the Gospel. 5. The new law of the Gospels is chiefly a call to love. It surpasses the old law and brings it to fulfillment. 6. Conscience applies natural and revealed law to our concrete acts, so that we can reach out to God by them. 7. Sin did not destroy God’s plan for us. His love triumphs over sin. 8. Christ is the incarnate mercy of God. He won for us the grace of Justification. 9. Justification is a work of the Holy Spirit, the master of the interior life, who enables us to turn from sin and to respond to God’s merciful invitation to conversion. 10. Faith leads us to cooperate with God’s justifying work in our souls. 11. God is essentially love personified. He is an eternal exchange of love. 12. God has taken us to Himself, and His life is love. He puts His love in our hearts in the gift of the Holy Spirit. This is the life of charity. 13. The Holy Spirit recreates us in Baptism, changing us essentially so that we can and do participate in the divine nature. 14. Love is the soul of holiness, and it is the measuring rod of our life. 15. The Gospel is the law of love. 16. God makes His own Trinitarian communion shine forth in the relationships between member of the family. In honoring our Father and Mother, we honor Him. 17. God made every person in His own image and likeness. We must respect each person out of reverence for Him. 18. The love of husband and wife in marriage is an icon of the total, faithful, and self-giving love between Christ and the Church. The great power of human sexuality finds int fulfillment only within marriage. 19. Every good thing comes to us as a gift from our Heavenly Father, who cares for our needs. Among His gifts is the ability to work to provide for ourselves and others. By work we participate in His providence and cooperate with his plan. 20. God, who is Truth, made our minds to know Truth and gave us power of speech so that we have the capability of sharing truth with others. Men can live together as he intended only to the degree that they can trust one another. |
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**Session 11 – Specifics of the Christian Moral Life**

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| Echoing the Mystery Topics |
| 20. The Second Coming  3. Life Everlasting  53. Sin and Vice  47. The Life of Virtue |
| The Story |
| God is guiding His creation toward ultimate fulfillment at the coming of His Son in glory, when Christ will be all in all. God calls each man to perfect and everlasting communion with Himself. He gives the time of earthly life man as opportunity to either cooperate with Him in achieving this goal or to reject His offer of salvation. God intended us to be free to choose Him. He always had the remedy – mercy – when we abused freedom through sin. The Father’s wondrous plan for us is to make us “sons in the Son,” giving us the capacity for acting divinely by grace. Practicing the virtues gives us joy in living as His children. |
| Knowledge Targets |
| 1. God is directing human history toward its final end. 2. With the renewal of man in the resurrection of the body, all creation will be renewed. 3. Jesus Christ will appear in glory. 4. In the general judgement, Christ will reveal the consequences of each person’s every action. 5. God wills all to be saved. 6. Heaven is an everlasting communion of life and love with God and the blessed. 7. In death, God calls man to Himself. 8. In the evening of life, we are judged on our love. This is the particular judgement. 9. God, in His merciful love, gives us purgatory to purify us after death if we lack the perfection necessary to enter heaven. 10. Those who choose not to love God in this life enter hell at death. 11. God created us for relationship with Himself and gave us freedom so that we could love Him. 12. Sin is choosing something else in place of God and not according to His will. 13. Sin is a refusal to live in communion with God; by sinning, man summons death. 14. Deliberately choosing sin enslaves us to sin. Through sin, we become less free to do and to enjoy what is good. 15. Even when we are dead in our sins, God’s mercy runs out to meet us and embraces us in Christ. 16. The debt for sin – death – could not be paid by us, so Jesus took our place to restore us to the Father. 17. By grace, God not only restores what we lost through sin, but raises us to new heights in His Son. 18. The Holy Spirit, given to us in Baptism, divinizes us. Through His indwelling, we receive power to live as sons of God. 19. The goal of the virtuous life is to become like God. 20. The cardinal (or moral) virtues make it easy and enjoyable to do what is good. 21. The theological virtues make us capable of a divine relationship with God. They give us the capacity to approach Him as our Father. |
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**Session 12 - The Story Continues – My Gospel Encounters and “Acts XXIX”**

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| Echoing the Mystery Topics |
| INSERT: THE LIFE OF CHRIST  23. The Kingdom of God  26. The Church and Her Four Marks  27. The Sacramental Economy |
| The Story |
| Jesus Christ had an earthly ministry of personal relationships, healing, and teaching. From all eternity, the Father intended to gather a people to Himself. Through His blood, Christ purchased this people for God, and the Holy Spirit forms them into a priestly people, who share in Christ’s mission and proclaim His Kingdom. In the Church, God gave the Christian all the means he needs to fulfill his vocation to holiness. By the Church’s marks (one, holy, catholic, and apostolic), He enables the Christian to recognize the Church as the means of salvation. This is how we know her. The Father always intended to bestow every blessing on us His Beloved Son, who would make possible for us to become His family. The Holy Spirit is poured out on us to make this inheritance our even now. |
| Knowledge Targets |
| 1. The Kingdom “is before all else a person with the face and name of Jesus of Nazareth, the image of the invisible God” (St. John Paul II, *Redemptoris Missio* 18). 2. Through His blood, Christ purchased a people for God and made of them a kingdom of priests. 3. Christ mandates that all the Church’s members share in His mission of spreading the Kingdom of God. 4. Christ calls the laity to build up the Kingdom of God in the midst of the world. 5. The Church is one in faith, worship, and government. 6. The Church is holy. 7. The Church is catholic in that she is universal. 8. Apostolicity binds the Church together. 9. The Father’s will is set forth in Christ and is made known in the Incarnation. The Church continues this Incarnational work and all her works bear this Incarnational stamp. 10. Through the Sacramental Economy, Christ makes His Paschal Mystery present in every age and unites us to it, making us share His life. 11. The Holy Spirit is the artisan of “God’s masterpieces,” the Sacraments. He directs the Church to shape the Sacramental mysteries and to dispense them through the Church’s ministers. |
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**Session 13: The Story Continues – Baptism**

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| Echoing the Mystery Topics |
| 5. The Blessed Trinity  29. The Sacrament of Baptism  45. Freedom in Christ  43. Love |
| The Story |
| God is a Trinitarian communion of Persons whose life is love. He created us to share in this communion of love. God intended to bless us with His life and have us participate in it for all eternity. He gives us this new, divine life through Holy Baptism. The Father intended that we might live with the freedom of the sons of God. With freedom, we participate in our own growth in His likeness. |
| Knowledge Targets |
| 1. God is Himself an eternal exchange of love. 2. The aim of God’s entire plan for us is our entry into His Trinitarian life; this defines the purpose for our lives. 3. The Trinity comes to us as self-emptying love in Christ. 4. God reveals this innermost secret of His life to us as He brings us to share in this life. 5. Each person of the Trinity works in a particular way in creation and salvation history. 6. The Church’s language of faith aids our understanding of this dogma: the Trinity is the mystery of the One God in three Divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. 7. In Baptism, with Christ, the Father says of us, “This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased.” 8. God makes us a new creation through the waters of Baptism. 9. Christ has made baptism the means of our Salvation. Baptism requires a journey of faith. 10. Baptism is the gateway to life in the Holy Spirit. 11. **Freedom is the power to choose what is good and true.** 12. **When God created man, He gave Him the gift of Freedom.** 13. **Free choices shape our character. They make us the kind of Saints that we will be in heaven. They are the substance of our relationship with God.** 14. **The gift of conscience is given to help direct the use of our freedom toward what is good.** |
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**Session 14: The Story Continues – Confirmation**

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| Echoing the Mystery Topics |
| 21. The Holy Spirit  22. The Church: Mystery and Mystical Body  30. The Sacrament of Confirmation  52. The Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit |
| The Story |
| The Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, the Holy Spirit, is the Lord of life and the Giver of life. All life, natural and supernatural, belongs to Him. God created the world for the sake of the communion with His divine life that He brings about through the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ. Through the Sacrament of Confirmation, God completes the marvelous work He began in Baptism by binding the Christian more closely to the Church and perfecting the graces of the Holy Spirit in the soul. The Father’s wondrous pan for us is to make us “sons in the Son,” giving us the capability of acting divinely by grace. By the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the virtues, He creates in us a family resemblance to Him even deeper than what we have by nature. |
| Knowledge Targets |
| 1. The Holy Spirit is the third person in the Blessed Trinity. 2. We know the Holy Spirit by His “Works” in the Church. He is our guarantor of hope. 3. Throughout salvation history, the Holy Spirit is revealed as the Lord and the giver of Life. 4. The Holy Spirit completes the Father’s plan by restoring us to the Divine Image. 5. The Church is a mystery, born of the pierced heart of Christ. 6. The Holy Spirit unites the Church’s members, as a soul unites the parts of a body. 7. The Church is Christ’s Mystical Body. By her He continues His Incarnation presence and work in the world. 8. Christ has chosen to make the Church necessary to carrying out His work in the world. 9. The consecrated life manifests the mystery of the church’s communion. 10. Confirmation continues the grace of Pentecost with the Church. 11. The rite of Confirmation is conferred through the laying on of hands and the anointing with chrism. The essentials of this rite include: 12. Confirmation conveys an indelible character, and the sacrament can only be received once. 13. Confirmation is “the Sacrament of Christian maturity” because it matures the Christian in grace. 14. Confirmation’s effect is a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It gives the recipient the power to have a personal and intimate relationship with the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity. 15. The gifts of the Holy Spirit make us docile to His promptings and perfect the virtues. 16. By His gifts of wisdom, understanding, knowledge, and fear of the Lord, the Holy Spirit perfects the theological virtues. 17. By the gifts of counsel, piety, fortitude, and fear of the Lord, the Holy Spirit perfects the cardinal virtues. 18. In the fruit of the spirit, we have a foretaste of future glory. |
| Minor Rite or Catholic Devotion |

**Session 15: The Story Continues – The Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist**

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| Echoing the Mystery Topics |
| 19. The Paschal Mystery  31. The Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist  32. Transubstantiation |
| The Story |
| God, in His plan of loving goodness, reconciled us to Himself through the blood of His Son, raised us up with Him in His Resurrection, and, through His Ascension, seats us with Him in the heavenly places. In order to give us “every blessing in the heavenly places,” Christ Jesus gave us Himself, the Blessing. This is the “the source and summit of the Christian Life.” Already in the Holy Eucharist we have in veiled form what we will have face to face in heaven, God, our all in all. Intending to bless us “in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places”, under the appearance of bread and wine, the Father gives us the very presence of His Son until the end of time. |
| Knowledge Targets |
| 1. The whole point of the incarnation was the Paschal Mystery, by which God accomplishes our salvation. 2. By dying, Christ destroyed our death. Death was never part of God’s plan for us, but He makes it the means of our salvation. 3. Jesus rose from the dead, bringing us to share in the life of the resurrection. 4. By ascending into heaven, Jesus brings His human nature to share fully in His divine glory. 5. Jesus calls each of us to be saved by sharing in His Paschal Mystery. 6. The Eucharist makes the Paschal Mystery present throughout all of time and joins us to it. 7. Jesus instituted this Eucharistic sacrifice for us “to perpetuate the sacrifice of the cross,” to entrust to His bride a memorial of His love in the Paschal “Banquet in which (He) is consumed.” 8. Jesus commanded the apostles to celebrate the Eucharist until His return so that we would be able to live in His love until He comes again. 9. The sacrifice of the cross is one single sacrifice with the Eucharistic Sacrifice. 10. The Eucharist unifies the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ, the Sacrament makes the Church. 11. By faith we know the Eucharist is the true Body and true Blood of Christ. 12. The words of consecration change the bread and wine int the body and blood of Christ. 13. The Eucharist changes us – giving us the power to love as Christ did. 14. Jesus urgently invites us to intimacy with Him in Holy Communion. 15. The Eucharist unites heaven and earth. 16. Jesus humbles Himself by veiling Himself under the appearance of the bread in order to remain with us always. |
| Minor Rite or Catholic Devotion |

**Session 16: The Story Continues – The Sacrament of Reconciliation**

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| Echoing the Mystery Topics |
| 25. The Communion of Saints  37. The Sacrament of Penance  53. Sin and Vice  46. Conscience |
| The Story |
| From the beginning, God intended a family to share His life. His plan to unite all things in Christ is accomplished in His Church, through which He brings about a holy people, united with the unity of the Trinity. We are “earthen vessels” who, by Baptism and Eucharist, hold the “treasure” of all treasures. Through the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, the Father gives us the possibility of restoring the new life given us in Baptism after we have weakened it or lost it by sin. God who alone is holy, chose us to be holy and blameless before Him through incorporating us into the life of His Son and sending the Holy Spirit into our hearts. God intended us to be free to choose Him. He always had the remedy – mercy – when we abused freedom through sin. When God created man, He left him in the hands of his own counsel, that man might freely seek Him. Man participates in the divine wisdom through his conscience, which enables him to discern the ways that lead to God. |
| Knowledge Targets |
| 1. The Holy Spirit sanctifies the hearts in which He dwells and unites them one to another, creating a communion among God’s holy ones – the saints. 2. In the Church, the saints share God’s holy gifts: one faith, the sacraments, charism, and holy love for one another, charity. 3. The Communion of Saints includes those baptized on earth, the souls in purgatory, and the faithful who have entered into heavenly glory. We all live one life in charity together. 4. The Sacrament of Penance restores the grace of Baptism. 5. Christ entrusted this ministry of reconciliation to the apostles and to their successors. 6. The penitent’s acts are essential to this sacrament: his contrition and his confession of his sins to a priest, with the intention to never sin again and to make satisfaction. 7. In the sacrament of reconciliation, we meet Christ and experience His mercy. 8. The sacrament of reconciliation restores our relationship with God, reconciles us with the Church and anticipates our particular judgement. 9. The Christian life is one of continual conversion to Christ and growth in holiness through the Sacraments and the practice of asceticism. 10. God created us for relationship with Himself and gave us freedom so that we could love Him. 11. Sin is choosing something else in place of God and not according to His will. 12. Sin is a refusal to live in communion with God; by sinning, man summons death. 13. Deliberately choosing sin enslaves us to sin. Through sin, we become less free to do and to enjoy what is good. 14. Even when we are dead in our sins, God’s mercy runs out to meet us and embraces us in Christ. 15. The debt for sin – death – could not be paid by us, so Jesus took our place to restore us to the Father. 16. By grace, God not only restores what we lost through sin, but raises us to new heights in His Son. 17. In the voice of his conscience, when it speaks rightly, man hears the voice of God pointing out the way that leads to beatitude. 18. Conscience applies God’s laws to life to show us how to live according to His truth. 19. We must strive throughout life to keep an upright and truthful conscience by seeing that it is well – formed and by acting according to it. 20. When we are enlightened by the truth that comes from God, we hear his voice in the well-formed conscience. |
| Minor Rite or Catholic Devotion |

**Session 17: The Story Continues – Anointing of the Sick**

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| Echoing the Mystery Topics |
| INSERT: THE LIFE OF CHRIST  24. The Church: Guardian and Dispenser of the Mysteries  38. The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick |
| The Story |
| God is by nature merciful. Jesus Christ had an earthly ministry of relationship, healing, and teaching.  God the Father destined us in love to be His sons and daughters through Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God. The life of the Church is a mystery of the love of the Trinity who dwells in her. This love is guided, guarded and up-built by the hierarchy of the Church and her Magisterium, so that we unfailingly meet Christ in her. In accord with God’s plan for us, after Original Sin He made the way for us to come into the “guarantee of our inheritance” of future glory. To rise with Christ, we must die with Christ. |
| Knowledge Targets |
| 1. Jesus healed and forgave sins in his earthly ministry. 2. The Second Person of the Trinity, the Word of God, assumed a human nature. 3. Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man. 4. The mission of Christ is summed up in the reasons for the Incarnation. 5. Everything Jesus said and did was for the purpose of accomplishing the reasons for the incarnation. 6. By becoming man, God made it possible for us to share His life. 7. The hierarchical structure of the Church serves the growth in holiness of the entire Church. The apostles and their successors bring us into communion with Christ and to share in His mystery. 8. The Church gives her children life in Baptism and then brings them to full birth by their entry into heaven. 9. Christ destroyed the power of sickness and death by His Paschal Mystery. 10. Viaticum, the last reception of Holy Communion, is the final and greatest grace the Church offers to her children who are “passing from death to life.” 11. The sacrament of the anointing of the sick is celebrating withing the community of the Church. 12. The Church calls all of her suffering members to contribute to the good of the people of God by freely uniting themselves to the Passion and Death of Christ. |
| Minor Rite or Catholic Devotion |

**Session 18: The Story Continues – Matrimony**

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| Echoing the Mystery Topics |
| 19. The Paschal Mystery  16. Jesus Christ  35. The Sacrament of Matrimony  57. The 6th Commandment |
| The Story |
| God always intended unity with us, so that we could participate in His Trinitarian Life. Jesus is the Way and the Truth by whom we come to that Life. God, His plan of loving goodness, reconciled us to Himself through the blood of His Son, raised us up with Him in His Resurrection, and, through His Ascension, seats us with Him in the heavenly places. God’s plan to “unite all things in Christ” is lived and expressed in the matrimonial covenant between a baptized man and baptized woman. This vocation to matrimonial union is “written in the very nature of man and woman as they come from the hand of the Creator,” and represents the union of Christ and the Church. |
| Knowledge Targets |
| 1. The whole point of the incarnation was the paschal mystery, by which God accomplishes our salvation. 2. By dying, Christ destroyed our death. Death was never part of God’s plan for us, but he makes it the means of our salvation. 3. Jesus rose from the dead, bringing us to share in the life of the resurrection. 4. By ascending into heaven, Jesus brings His human nature to share fully in His divine glory. 5. Jesus calls each of us to be saved by sharing in His Paschal Mystery. 6. The Eucharist makes the Paschal Mystery present throughout all of time and joins us to it. 7. From the beginning, God designed that man and woman should image the relationship of the persons of the Trinity, through their mutual gifts of self to each other, they are no longer two, but one. 8. Through marriage, spouses are consecrated for the duties and for the dignity of the marital covenant. 9. Man and woman as spouses and parents cooperate in a unique way in the creator’s work. 10. Marriage is a great good. 11. Marriage is the foundation of the “domestic church.” 12. The love of husband and wife in marriage is an icon the total, faithful, and self-giving love between Christ and the Church. The great power of human sexuality finds its fulfillment only within marriage. |
| Minor Rite or Catholic Devotion |

**Session 19: The Story Continues – Holy Orders**

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| Echoing the Mystery Topics |
| 18. The Incarnation  9. Sacred Tradition  34. The Sacrament of Holy Orders |
| The Story |
| God the Father destined us in love to be His sons and daughters through Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. God the Father sent Jesus to make clear to us the fullness of His plan for us and to make available to us “every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.” Jesus, in His turn, sent His Apostles “to continue His mission” to us. Through their ministry, Jesus’ work continues in the Church until He comes again. |
| Knowledge Targets |
| 1. The Second Person of the Trinity, the Word of God, assumed a human nature. 2. Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man. 3. The mission of Christ is summed up in the reasons for the Incarnation. 4. Everything Jesus said and did was for the purpose of accomplishing the reasons for the incarnation. 5. By becoming man, God made it possible for us to share His life. 6. At the Ascension, Christ commissioned the Apostles to be His ambassadors until the end of time. 7. Through the Sacrament of Holy Orders, a man receives the power to act as Christ’s repetitive on Earth. 8. Holy Orders has three degrees of configuration to Christ which delegate specific sharers of the Apostles’ mission to those who receive it. 9. Receiving the Sacrament of Holy Orders ordains a man forever. |
| Minor Rite or Catholic Devotion |

Catechumen Study During the Week

Participants read one chapter from the Gospel, beginning with the Gospel according to St. Luke 1-2 then progressing to the Gospel according to St. Mark 1-14, and one modern “Life of a Saint”.